

The Democratic Budget Resolution puts American families first and safeguards our children's future

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(Washington, D.C.) - Looking to restore fiscal responsibility and reverse the detrimental economic trends created in the last 6 years, Congressman Albio Sires voted in support of the 2008 Democratic Budget Resolution. This budget balances in 2012, putting a stop to deficits, while regaining control of our economic future.

"To have a lower deficit in fiscal year 2008 and \$234 billion lower over the next five years puts us in more control of our spending," said Congressman Sires. "This budget sets guidelines that eliminate wasteful spending, and makes our government more efficient in vital areas like Social Security, Medicare and the Department of Defense."

The Democratic House Budget serves Americans that need it most. It takes care of our children, seniors, veterans and middle-income families. In New Jersey alone, the resolution:

- Increases funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which will help the more than 250,500 children that do not have health insurance in New Jersey access care. By providing health services to our neediest children, we can ensure that they grow into strong and healthy young adults.

- Provides more funding for New Jersey Public Schools, benefiting the almost 1.4 million elementary, middle and high school students. This will help our schools pay for high quality programs that will help our children have access to the best quality reading, writing, mathematics, and science education.

- Protects middle-income families from a tax increase by setting up a reserve fund for the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). In New Jersey, 228,000 families were subject to the AMT in 2004, and if nothing is done, over 1,600,000 will be subject to the tax in 2007.

- Provides for the largest veterans' budget increase in history. The almost 600,000 New Jersey veterans deserve to have excellent health care and VA health care facilities. The budget speeds up and improves the accuracy of disability claims processing as well.

- The House Democratic Budget also provides funds for the implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations, which is so vital to the safety of New Jersey residents living in areas of high risk. It also allows additional funding to be used towards under funded Port Security Grants.

- The House Budget also restores full funding for Amtrak, the passenger railway service. Without the \$393 million dollars the President had proposed cutting from the \$1.9 million it needs to operate, this valuable service to New Jersey commuters would eventually shut down.

"It is our duty to clean up the fiscal mess we have been left with," said Congressman Sires. "The pay-as-you-go principle brought surpluses in the 1990s. Performance reviews will eliminate unnecessary spending and make sure government programs are working."

The House Democratic Budget rejects the President's cuts to Small Business, the State Homeland Security Grant Program, as well as \$1 million in cuts to children's health care and \$300 billion to Medicare and Medicaid over the next 10 years.